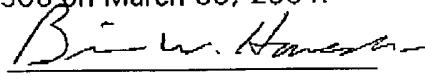


MAR 30 2004

Certification under 37 CFR 1.8b**OFFICIAL**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on March 30, 2004.

Brian W. Hameder  
Name

  
Signature

DOCKET: CU-2605

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT:	John CANNING et al.	)
		)
SERIAL NO:	09/890,698	) Group Art Unit: 1756
		)
FILED:	August 3, 2001	) Examiner: M. J. Angebrannndt
TITLE:	LASER ABLATION OF WAVEGUIDE STRUCTURES	

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 30, 2003 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on January 30, 2004. Applicant submits the following responsive amendment in the above-identified application. Also submitted with this amendment is a Request for two-month Extension with the required fee, to extend the period of reply to March 30, 2004. Applicant believes this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance. Applicant's remarks are attached hereto and start on page 3.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the indicated paragraphs with the attached amended paragraphs.